

**Please insert the following Abstract of the Disclosure.**

A method for treating a metal surface by carboxylation before forming, the metal being selected from zinc, iron, aluminium, copper, lead and the alloys thereof as well as copper-coated, aluminium-coated, galvanised steels. The method is carried out in oxidizing conditions in relation to the metal by bringing the metal into contact with an aqueous organic or hydro-organic bath having at least one organic acid in free form or in salt form. The organic acid is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic or dicarboxylic acid; the organic acid is in solution and/or emulsion in the bath at a concentration greater than 0.1 mole/liter; and the pH of the bath is acid.